Remarks

In the outstanding Official Action, the Examiner:

(1) acknowledged Applicants' election of specie V, and indicated that claims 6-11 and 13 are withdrawn from further consideration pursuant to 37 CFR 1.142(b) as being drawn to a nonelected specie, there being no allowable generic or linking claim; and

(2) rejected claims 1-5 and 12 under 35 USC 102(e) as being anticipated by Solem et al.

In response to Item 1 above, Applicants confirm the previous election of specie V, illustrated in Fig. 11, in which claims 1-5 and 12 are believed to be readable thereon, and Applicants respectfully reserve the right to prosecute all non-elected subject matter in related patent applications.

In response to Item 2 above, Applicants have now amended independent claims 1 and 12 to more clearly distinguish the present invention from the prior art of record.

Claim 1 comprises apparatus for reducing mitral valve regurgitation, the apparatus comprising a bendable elongated body being adjustable between a first configuration and a second configuration, the elongated body comprising a distal end section having a first fixed

length in a direction parallel to the longitudinal axis, and a plurality of proximally-extending barbs disposed within the first fixed length of the distal end section, a proximal end section having a second fixed length in a direction parallel to the longitudinal axis, and a plurality of distally-extending barbs disposed within the second fixed length of the proximal end section, at least one spring segment connecting the distal end section to the proximal end section, the at least one spring element configured to provide a first given length between the distal end section and the proximal end section in the first configuration, and configured to provide a second given length between the distal end section and the proximal end section in the second configuration, and the second given length being shorter than the first given length, wherein the elongated body is adjusted from the first configuration to the second configuration so as to urge the distal end section and the proximal end section toward one another.

Applicants believe that Solem et al. disclose a device for the treatment of mitral annulus dilation with an elongate body having two states, which include a stretched or extended state and a contracted state. Applicants believe that Solem et al. disclose an elongate body of one,

two or more strings of memory metal that extend from the proximal end to the distal end of the device. Applicants believe that the disclosure by Solem et al. of memory metal strings extending the length of the device teach away from the present invention as claimed in which the distal end section and the proximal end section are each configured with a fixed length and at least one spring segment is configured to adjust the length therebetween. Accordingly, claim 1 is believed to be in condition for allowance, and allowance thereof is respectfully requested.

Claims 2-5, which depend either directly or ultimately from independent claim 1, are believed to be in condition for allowance for at least the above-identified reasons. Accordingly, allowance of claims 2-5 is respectfully requested.

Claim 12 comprises a method for reducing mitral regurgitation, the method comprising the steps of providing a prosthesis comprising a bendable elongated body being adjustable between a first configuration and a second configuration, the elongated body comprising a distal end section having a first fixed length in a direction parallel to the longitudinal axis, and a plurality of proximally-extending barbs disposed within the first fixed length of said distal end section, a proximal end section

having a second fixed length in a direction parallel to the longitudinal axis, and a plurality of distally-extending barbs disposed within s fixed length of said proximal end section, and at least one spring segment connecting the distal end section to the proximal end section, the at least one spring segment configured to provide a first given length between the distal end section and the proximal end section in the first configuration and configured to provide a second given length between the distal end section and the proximal end section in the second configuration, and the second given length being shorter than the first given length, wherein the elongated body is adjusted from the first configuration to the second configuration so as to urge the distal end section and the proximal end section toward one another, positioning the prosthesis in the coronary sinus while in the first configuration, and reconfiguring the prosthesis into the second configuration.

Applicants believe that Solem et al. disclose a method for the treatment of mitral annulus dilation using a device with an elongate body having two states, which include a stretched or extended state and a contracted state. Applicants believe that Solem et al. disclose an elongate body of one, two or more strings of memory metal that

extend from the proximal end to the distal end of the device. Applicants believe that the disclosure by Solem et al. of memory metal strings extending the length of the device teach away from the present invention as claimed in which the distal end section and the proximal end section are each configured with a fixed length and at least one spring segment is configured to adjust the length therebetween. Accordingly, claim 12 is believed to be in condition for allowance, and allowance thereof is respectfully requested.

In the event that any additional fees may be required in this matter, please charge the same to Deposit Account No. 16-0221.

Respectfully submitted,

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